



NEWS RELEASE

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Retired LAPD Detective Charged With Embezzling Foundation's Funds

A retired Los Angeles police detective pleaded not guilty today to a charge that he embezzled more than \$150,000 from a foundation that represents black LAPD officers and employees, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

James Edwards (dob 12/16/49) was charged in case BA429952 with one count of embezzlement with an excessive-taking allegation of more than \$50,000. Edwards entered his plea and is scheduled to return Nov. 6 for a preliminary hearing setting in Department 30 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

Prosecutors said Edwards began serving as president of the Oscar Joel Bryant Foundation in July 2011. As president, Edwards was the only person authorized to write checks or make withdrawals from the group's bank account, prosecutors added.

Prosecutors allege Edwards stole more than \$150,000 over a two-year period. When Edwards was questioned in July 2013 by foundation officials about unauthorized transactions, he resigned from the organization. Edwards also retired from LAPD shortly thereafter.

The defendant has paid back most of the funds, prosecutors said. If convicted, Edwards faces up to four years in county jail.

The case was investigated by Los Angeles Police Department's Internal Affairs Criminal Investigation Division.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.